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64-2755

*Maxwell Taylor* 20 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: Draft Standing Group Intelligence Estimate of Soviet  
Bloc Strength and Capabilities (SG 161/18)

1. In accordance with the "Agreed Procedures for US Participation in NATO Standing Group Intelligence Estimate", the United States Intelligence Board has reviewed the Draft Standing Group Intelligence Estimate of Soviet Bloc Strength and Capabilities (SG 161/18) prepared by an Ad Hoc Intelligence Working Group under Standing Group direction.
2. The United States Intelligence Board concurs in this estimate for use in NATO planning and recommends that the Joint Chiefs of Staff authorize the US Representative to the Military Committee and Standing Group, NATO, to approve the estimate for such use.
3. The Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence, USAF, continues to dissent to judgments regarding specific subjects on which his estimates have been expressed previously as footnotes in appropriate National Intelligence Estimates.

Marshall S. Carter  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Acting Chairman

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SECRET

15 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CIA MEMBER, USIB

SUBJECT: Draft NATO Standing Group Estimate, "Soviet Bloc Strength and Capabilities" (SG 161/18)

1. This draft estimate has been prepared for NATO use by an Ad Hoc Intelligence Working Group consisting of intelligence officers of the NATO Standing Group nations, i.e., United States, United Kingdom, and France. The "Agreed Procedures for US Participation in NATO Standing Group Intelligence Estimate" provide that the USIB shall review the draft estimate and, upon approval, transmit it to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
2. All members of USIB have concurred in the draft estimate and in the attached memorandum of transmittal. Director, DIA has requested reflection of an Air Force disclaimer which has been added to the attached memorandum as paragraph 3.
3. This draft represents tripartite views and thus does not reflect the US Position Paper in many of its details. The deficiencies in this estimate, from the US point of view, lie in the omission of certain US judgments rather than in the inclusion of any important judgments contrary to US national intelligence. For example, this draft omits many of the judgments from NIE 11-14-63 concerning inadequacies of equipment in Soviet ground forces and the structure of larger ground units.

4. These deficiencies arise primarily from the manner in which the US Position is prepared and presented. Under current procedures, too much responsibility for negotiation of key intelligence matters falls on individual US spokesmen in the various committees of the AD Hoc Intelligence Working Group. ONE, in consultation with responsible staff officers of DIA, is preparing recommendations to improve these procedures for next year's NATO estimate.

5. In view of the fact that this draft estimate contains no important judgments which are contrary to US national intelligence, and that accommodation to other national views is a normal feature of such a tripartite exercise, we recommend that the draft be approved and forwarded to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, per the attached Memorandum.

FOR THE BOARD OF NATIONAL ESTIMATES

ABEOT SMITH  
Acting Chairman